

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 06338 152347Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----116520 152350Z /65  
P 152330Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5747

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6338

EXDIS

DEPT PASS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL PRIORITY

ARA FOR TODMAN ONLY

NSC FOR PASTOR ONLY

S/AB FOR BUNKER: POPPER ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR PN  
SUBJ: EVALUATION OF EFFECT OF FAILURE TO RATIFY TREATIES

REF: STATE 219477

1. THE REACTION IN ECUADOR TO FAILURE BY THE US. TO RATIFY THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES WOULD BE QUITE NEGATIVE. ALL SUGGESTIONS OF SOCIETY, INCLUDING THE GOE, CAUGHT UP IN WHAT IS ONE OF THE FEW ISSUES WHICH CAN AROUSE LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY, WOULD BE FORCED TO PUBLICLY DENOUNCE THE US ACTION IN STRONG TERMS.

2. THE RACTION BY NON-GOE ELEMENTS, PARTICULARLY POLITICIANS, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE GENERALLY ILL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE US, WOULD BE HARSH. IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS, I BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE THAT DEMONSTRATIONS COULD BE DIRECTED  
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AGAINST THE EMBASSY OR THE CONSULTATE GENERAL IN GUAYAQUIL, OR EVEN THE TERRORIST INCIDENTS SUCH AS BOMBINGS COULD BE DIRECTED AGAINST US INSTALLATIONS HERE. FAILURE TO RATIFY WOULD BE THE PERFECT EXCUSE FOR ALL SORTS OF GROUPS TO TAKE OUT THEIR AGGRESSIONS AGAINST US.

3. THE GOE REACTION WOULD BE MORE STUIDIED BUT STILL

NEGATIVE. PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONDEMNATORY OF THE US WOULD PROBABLY BE ISSUED. (THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME, IN A DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS OF RATIFICATION, THAT HE WAS SURE PRESIDENT CARTER WAS NOT SO FOOLHARDY AS TO GATHER TOGETHER ALL THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF THE HEMISPHERE TO WITNESS THE SIGNATURE OF A TREATY WHICH WOULD BE REJECTED BY THE SENATE--IMPLYING THAT THE CHIEFS OF STATES' PRESTIGE WAS NOW INVOLVED IN THE RATIFICATION ISSUE). I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR BILATERAL REATIONS WOULD BE HARMED ON THE SURFACE. THAT RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO BE BASED UPON THE GOE'S PERCEPTION OF ITS OWN INTERESTS, NOT UPON-US--THIRD COUTRY RELATIONS. I DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE BADLY SHAKEN AND THAT IT WOULD THEREFORE BEGIN TO REASSESS SOME OF THE RECENT GAINS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. THERE WOULD BE QUESTIONS RAISED AS TO WHETHER US. COMMITMENTS ON BILATERAL MATTERS COULD BE TRUSTED TO PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS.

4. AS I HAVE NOTED PREVIOUSLY, THE GOE IS OF TWO MINDS ABOUT THE TREATY: SUPPORTING THE "END OF COLONIALISM" WHICH IT REPRESENTS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME FEARFUL OF TOLL INCREASES UNDER THE NEW REGIME AND TOLL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS UNDER EVENTUAL PANAMANIAN CONTROL. BUT THESE CONCERNS WOULD NOT OUTWEIGH THE REACTIONS NOTED ABOVE.  
BLOOMFIELD  
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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NSC.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, PDIP, PN, PQ, EC  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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